

Today's Topics:

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Quake Post Mortem Dump
Steam Power
WEFAX problems

Date: 21 Oct 89 02:27:25 GMT

From: asuvax!anasaz!john@handies.ucar.edu (John Moore)

Subject: DIRECTION FINDING EQUIPMENT (SuperDF)

In article <3963@cbnewsc.ATT.COM> parnass@cbnewsc.ATT.COM (Bob Parnass, AJ9S) writes:

]Has anyone on the net tried the SuperDF? If so, please comment
]on your experiences and you opinion of the quality of construction,
]performance, etc.

]The SuperDF connects to the earphone and antenna jacks
]of any FM receiver. Both the control unit and antennas are
]available in kit or assembled form.

]The SuperDF is available from:

] BMG Engineering
] 9935 East Garibaldi Avenue
] Temple City, CA 91780
]

I don't have the BMG, but I do know the creator of it, have seen impressive demos, and like the technical approach. Russ Andrews did a lot of work to figure out how to take the basic "double ducky" approach and make it work right. If you have ever tried serious DF'ing with a double ducky, you know it doesn't work well - especially around multi-path. Russ has a system that much improves on the double ducky, both by being careful in the RF work (such as keeping everything balanced rather than single ended) and in the signal processing.

The only reason I don't have one of these is I keep forgetting to call Russ and order one. After our last T-hunt, I said to myself

once again that I would get one!

--

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7525 Clearwater Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85253
The 2nd amendment is about military weapons, NOT JUST hunting weapons!

Date: 21 Oct 89 02:15:56 GMT
From: asuvax!anasaz!john@handies.ucar.edu (John Moore)
Subject: Double Ducky Doldrums

In article <174614@Wayne-MTS> Michael_Edelman%Wayne-MTS@UM.CC.UMICH.EDU writes:

>But while this all seems to work, it still looks like doppler is
>the way to go. Once the current project stack is finished I'm
>thinking about building my own real doppler. The Dick Smith kit, if
>still available, has been built by a local ham. He was able to get a
>range of no more than 3 miles after extensive mods to cut the amount
>of switching noise. Anyone try building the circuit in the recent
>Tab DF-ing manual?

>

>Interested fans of ducks and dopplers are invited to correspond or
>post their experiences.

A few comments...

A device that works on the TDA method like the double ducky
but works much better is manufactured by Russ Andrews at BMG
engineering. It uses much better audio signal processing than
the QST double ducky.

I don't recommend the Dick Smith doppler. It uses a PLL to decode
the audio and simply doesn't have enough filtering. In addition, the
PLL loses lock easily or if it drifts, at which point you have
a meaningless display.

The old QST 8 antenna doppler, the Roanoke doppler (I think) and
the Doppler Systems dopplers all use coherent filters to process
the audio. These work MUCH better on weak signals. All three types
are in use here in Phoenix for our local hunt, and seem to
be operationally equivalent.

--

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Date: 21 Oct 89 01:19:55 GMT
From: vsi1!tomp@apple.com (Tom Pohorsky)
Subject: Earthquake in SF!!!

In article <MNP.89Oct19140134@blanche.cs.brown.edu> mnp@cs.brown.edu (Matthew Nicholas Pappas) writes:
>Mail to UCSC is bouncing. No suprise, i suppose.

No surprise, indeed. UCSC is bouncing :-) Classes postponed till at least Monday.

sincerely, Tom "what was once chimney is now window" Pohorsky.

--
ames!vsi1!tomp tomp@vicom.com

Date: Fri, 20 Oct 89 20:37:56 -0700
From: Doug Faunt N6TQS 415-688-8269 <faunt@cisco.com>
Subject: How Much Good Does Ham Radio "Emergency Preparedness" Do?

Having just come through the emergency myself, I think that the 4 things you mentioned are certainly true, and probably enough justification for drills in and of themselves. I learned stuff in the course of this "drill" to make me more effective during the real one. And I want future drills, not many, to work out bugs in future plans.

This WAS NOT the big one. How far do you live from the Heyward Fault, Jon?

Date: 20 Oct 89 14:13:19 GMT
From: cadnetix.COM!cadnetix!rusty@uunet.uu.net (Rusty Carruth)
Subject: Neutralizing Heathkit finals (6146/A/B woes)

In article <10007@cadnetix.COM> rusty@cadnetix.COM (Rusty Carruth) writes:
->In article <3532@aplcn.apl.jhu.edu> @aplvax.jhuapl.edu:mjj@stda.jhuapl.edu (Marshall Jose) writes:

->...
->>, and how even Heathkit claims that the A & B series tubes
->>cannot be successfully neutralized.
->>

->I went through all the procedures, and found that I could get Ip
->to dip when Po was max (or close enough as far as I was concerned!),
->but it did seem to be pretty close to the end of the adjustment range.
->
->I cannot say for sure, but I'm pretty sure I've got A's in my rig,
->not plain 6146's.

Boy, was I wrong. One of the tubes was a 6146 *B*, I did not check the
other one, but I'm pretty sure its also a B.

---Join the usenet un-net, 28.410 and/or 28.390, 1500Z to 1600Z saturdays!
Rusty Carruth. Radio: N7IKQ ^^ or later :-)
DOMAIN: rusty@cadnetix.com UUCP:{uunet,boulder}!cadnetix!rusty
home: POB. 461, Lafayette 80026

Date: 21 Oct 89 02:21:56 GMT
From: asuvax!anasaz!john@handies.ucar.edu (John Moore)
Subject: new Part 97

In article <8910191645.AA04944@ucbvax.Berkeley.EDU> 702WFG@SCRVMSYS.BITNET (bill
gunshannon) writes:

]>Ah... but you miss the point. Most of the logistics of running the event
]>are to benefit the public involved in the event. For example, if
]>you coordinate the supply of water at a marathon, the principle
]>beneficiary is the public, not the sponsor. If you use the radio
]>to advertise the event, the beneficiary is the sponsor.
]>--

]>John Moore (NJ7E) mcdphx!anasaz!john asuvax!anasaz!john
]

]That's not really true either. You saved the sponser the cost of hiring
]a commercial communications provider. Or even just leasing commercial
]radios and hiring operators to man them. I'll bet he didn't put the money
]he saved into his favorite charity either. ;-)

Most of the events that we work are put on BY the charity. If you really
want to get silly about this, you can say that all these events are the
normal business of the charity or whatever, and that ham radio only
allows them to avoid the expense of hiring operators and radios. In fact,
the areas that are in danger of hurricanes or earthquakes should
buy radios and hire operators for the time when the disasters occur. Using
a ham radio only allows these folks to avoid these costs.

MY TURN ON THE SOAPBOX

Give me a break!!! We can nit pick this to death. At some point,
common sense has to get involved. If your activities primarily

benefit the public, do them. If they primarily benefit the sponsor, don't do 'em. But... do some public service to help pay for the privilege of being a ham, and to help out our image.

MUCH CALMER NOW, he steps off the soapbox and goes back to planning for the MS bikeathon.

--

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Date: 21 Oct 89 02:29:47 GMT
From: asuvax!anasaz!john@handies.ucar.edu (John Moore)
Subject: Phonepatches to San Fransisco

In article <2488@wyse.wyse.com> stevew@wyse.UUCP (Steve Wilson xttemp dept303) writes:

>same case in the Mexico quake. This wan't the case in the Armenian
>quake, etc, and there still is THOUSANDS of peices of traffic that
>are being held by a certain ham that have yet to be delivered to Armenia!
 ^^^^^^^^^^^ K1MAN?

--

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Date: 20 Oct 89 19:45:04 GMT
From: shelby!portia!jessica.Stanford.EDU!paulf@decwrl.dec.com (Paul Flaherty)
Subject: Quake Post Mortem Dump

You're probably going to hear lots of quake stories in the next few days, so I'll try to keep this one short.

I was at home, listening to 20m (irony #1, to KP2V), and running a file transfer over the phone. We had about five seconds of "rolling" (eg, the feeling of "oh, it's just another earthquake") before the shaking hit (eg, the feeling of "GET UNDER THE DESK NOW!"). Spent the next 40 seconds or so watching the waterbed slosh around, hearing my Mac reboot as the power flickered in and out, hearing plates dumping out of the kitchen cabinets.

After climbing out (the house was still rocking for another minute or so), I took one look at my now useless HF gear, and grabbed for my 2m ht. The quake net was already going on 5.27, so I went outside to shut off the gas. Just about everyone was out in the street, wandering around. Made a quick (15 second) call to home (my mother was watching the World Series), and drove over to Stanford (no traffic lights, and rush hour traffic... fortunately, I was driving counter-commute). Ran the last mile to the trailers; we (N6UOK and my girlfriend) hauled out the generator, and got the VHF and UHF rigs going (N6BDE, WA6ITV, N4HU0, KX6T were already on campus and running the emergency net on 440 and 1.2). We then put the hf station on the air on 15, and spent the next seven hours or so working through a pile of inquiries. (Side note - DXing does indeed prepare you for handling emergency traffic, particularly pileup management.)

A substantial number of inquiries came from parents, wanting to know the conditions on campus (looks like we lost a few residence halls; we have about 600 homeless students). The long distance carriers were choking calls going into the Bay Area, and it was tough to get a line going out. Probably our main function on HF was trying to reassure people that things were not nearly as bad as the TV networks were portraying.

We moved down to 20m about three hours later; after about an hour on the same frequency, some bozo from "Peru" decided to take the frequency ("this frequency is in use between Peru and San Francisco", and then lots of rapidfire spanish). We tried to continue, but then he went QRO, and we didn't have the generator capacity to light off the Alpha. We dropped down to 40m, which was pretty quiet, and someone set up a TV set in the VHF trailer. Most of us (now including N5PEE, N6MIO, N8JUF, and a few others) hadn't seen any news reports since the quake, so we sat down for a while to digest some of the sights. I was beginning to understand why so many people outside of the Bay Area were so upset...

I slept through a few more aftershocks before heading back to the trailers Wednesday; by that time, we had power again, and everything seemed to be winding down.

--Paul Flaherty, N9FZX | "I asked for a dissertation topic, and for my
->paulf@shasta.Stanford.EDU | sins, they gave me one."

Date: Fri, 20 Oct 89 16:22:42 EDT
From: Michael_Edelman%Wayne-MTS@um.cc.umich.edu
Subject: Steam Power

Check out a copy of Wooden Boat at your local library or bookstore. I've often seen ads for engines right out of "African Queen". They run on wood

or coal and have a long stroke and low RPM. You can get a range of engine HP from 1-10 or more.

Next week, making plutonium oxide batteries for those looooong mobile runs far from home...

73 de ke8yy

Date: 20 Oct 89 20:25:46 GMT
From: asuvax!anasaz!qip!bobm@handies.ucar.edu (Bob Maccione)
Subject: WEFAX problems

In article <1451@cbnewsj.ATT.COM> newsman@cbnewsj.ATT.COM (john.ferro..jr) writes:
>Does anybody reading this have any experience with a WEFAX demodulator
>kit from Software System Consulting? I purchased this kit not to long
>ago and must say that I have had a heck of a time producing any type of
>intelligible picture on my computer screen. The most i can get out of it
.. more stuff

well, last night I received the kit in the mail, then RAN down to radio shack and bought the DX-440 radio. No external antenna or anything. I hooked it up to my AT clone and ran hffax.. Within 5 minutes I had a decient picture (considering the lack of a good antenna). I left it tuned to the CA station (i forget the ##) and put it in auto mode.

This morning I saw that I have 2 semi decent pic's and no real problems.

i would check the scope mode and look at the signal comming in. Also check the baud rate (i think it' s the CPS rate -- wefax needs 120).

I just got off the phone with one of the guys in the company to see about getting the file formats so i can make them into .GIF files (smaller and more portable). They were real good about answering my questions and everything. Try calling them, the ## is 714-498-5784

good luck

End of INFO-HAMS Digest V89 Issue #787
